

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A columnar honeycomb structural body comprising:

a porous ceramic block comprising a plurality of porous ceramic members and a sealing material layer formed between the porous ceramic members, each of the porous ceramic members having a plurality of through holes and a wall portion interposed between the through holes, the through holes extending in parallel with one another in a length direction of the porous ceramic block, the porous ceramic block having a wall portion interposed between the through holes,

wherein the through holes have one of ends sealed such that an opening area of one end face of the through holes is larger than an opening area of the other end face of the through holes, the plurality of through holes includes a plurality of large through holes sealed on the one end face and a plurality of small through holes sealed on the other end face, each of the large through holes has an octagonal cross-section shape and each of the small through holes has a quadrangle cross-section shape, the large through holes have cross-section areas which are larger than cross-section areas of the small through holes, the large through holes and the small through holes are positioned such that a distance between centers of gravity of the cross-section areas of adjacent ones of the large through holes is set to be equal to a distance between centers of gravity of the cross-section areas of adjacent ones of the small through holes, the opening area of the one end face of the through holes and the opening area of the other end face of the through holes have a ratio in a range between 1.01 to 6, the wall portion has a plurality of micro pores having an average pore diameter in a range from 5 to 30 μm , the micro pores include large micro pores having a pore diameter two or more times larger than the average pore diameter, and the large micro pores have a capacity of which a rate is set to 30% or less of a capacity of the micro pores in entirety.

Claim 2 (original): The honeycomb structural body according to claim 1, wherein the opening area on a gas inlet side is made larger than the opening area on a gas outlet side.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The honeycomb structural body according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the wall portion includes a plurality of partition wall portions for separating through holes on a gas inlet side from one another each of which is interposed between two adjacent large through holes of the large through holes such that each of the partition wall portions is defined by two adjacent sides of the two adjacent large through holes.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The honeycomb structural body according to claim 1, wherein the wall portion has a porosity in a range from 30 to 70%.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The honeycomb structural body according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of through holes on a cross-section perpendicular to the length direction has a density in a range from 15.5 to 62.0 pcs/cm².

Claim 6 (currently amended): The honeycomb structural body according to claim 1, wherein the ~~porous~~ ceramic block comprises silicon carbide ~~as a main material~~.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The honeycomb structural body according to claim 1, wherein said wall portion has a thickness in a range from 0.1 to 0.5 mm.

Claim 8 (previously presented): An exhaust gas purifying device for a vehicle, comprising the honeycomb structural body according to claim 1.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The honeycomb structural body according to claim 2, wherein the wall portion has a porosity in a range from 30 to 70%.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The honeycomb structural body according to claim 2, wherein the plurality of through holes on a cross-section perpendicular to the length direction has a density in a range from 15.5 to 62.0 pcs/cm².

Claim 11 (currently amended): The honeycomb structural body according to claim 2, wherein the ~~porous~~ ceramic block comprises silicon carbide as a main material.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The honeycomb structural body according to claim 2, wherein said wall portion has a thickness in a range from 0.1 to 0.5 mm.

Claim 13 (previously presented): An exhaust gas purifying device for a vehicle, comprising the honeycomb structural body according to claim 2.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The honeycomb structural body according to claim 4, wherein the plurality of through holes on a cross-section perpendicular to the length direction has a density in a range from 15.5 to 62.0 pcs/cm².

Claim 15 (currently amended): The honeycomb structural body according to claim [[4]] 1, wherein the plurality of porous ceramic block members comprises silicon carbide as a main material.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The honeycomb structural body according to claim 4, wherein said wall portion has a thickness in a range from 0.1 to 0.5 mm.

Claim 17 (previously presented): An exhaust gas purifying device for a vehicle, comprising the honeycomb structural body according to claim 4.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The honeycomb structural body according to claim [[5]] 1, wherein the porous ceramic block comprises silicon carbide as a main material.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The honeycomb structural body according to claim 5, wherein said wall portion has a thickness in a range from 0.1 to 0.5 mm.

Claim 20 (previously presented): An exhaust gas purifying device for a vehicle, comprising the honeycomb structural body according to claim 5.